

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AEC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 SAM-01

BIB-01 TRSE-00 /089 W

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R 141803Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6716

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 04082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, TECH, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY ON NPT

REF: (A) CANBERRA 535; (B) PARIS 1902

1. WE WERE STRUCK BY REPORT IN REF A, PARA 7 THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD HAD TOLD AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM "FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE NPT REVIEW SEVERAL MONTHS HENCE." BOTH IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND IN PRIVATE CONTACTS WITH US, THE QUAI HAS TAKEN UNSWERVING LINE THAT FRANCE WILL NOT SIGN THE NPT. FOR EXAMPLE FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THAT "WE DO NOT INTEND TO SIGN THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY" (REF B, PARA 5).

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2. IN DISCUSSION WITH MISTRAL (QUAI ACTION OFFICER FOR

DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS) ON FEBRUARY 13, WE WERE TOLD ONCE AGAIN THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT SIGN THE NPT AND WOULD NOT ATTEND NPT REVIEW MEETING. MISTRAL ADDED ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT IF GENERAL INVITATION WAS ISSUED TO NON-SIGNATORIES OF NPT, FRANCE WOULD TAKE SUCH INVITATION UNDER STUDY. IN THAT EVENT, HOWEVER, MISTRAL DID NOT BELIEVE FRENCH WOULD BE ANY MORE POSITIVE IN THEIR RESPONSE.

3. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT MISTRAL'S COMMENTS ACCURATELY REFLECT QUAI POLICY ON FRANCE AND NPT. WE CANNOT COMPLETELY EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT GISCARD INTENDS TO CHANGE THAT POLICY IN TIME FOR FRANCE TO ATTEND NPT REVIEW MEETING ALTHOUGH WE THINK THIS IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY.
RUSH

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Disposition Reason:
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